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COLORADO PIRG
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CONSUMER ACTION
CONSUMER FEDERATION OF AMERICA
CONSUMER FEDERATION OF THE SOUTHEAST
CONSUMERS ASSISTANCE COUNCIL (MA)
CONSUMERS FOR AUTO RELIABILITY AND SAFETY
CONSUMERS UNION
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VIRGINIA CITIZENS CONSUMER COUNCIL
WECO FUND, INC.
WISCONSIN CONSUMERS LEAGUE
WISCONSIN PIRG

October 6, 2005

Re: *Support for Boehlert-Markey Amendment to Increase Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards*

Dear Representative,

The House will soon take up HR 3893, "The Gasoline for America's Security Act of 2005." The bill fails to include the most important measure to promote American energy security – improvement in the fuel efficiency of American automobiles and light trucks. A bipartisan amendment sponsored by Representatives Boehlert and Markey that mandates an 8-mile per gallon increase in the corporate average fuel efficiency (CAFÉ) standard will be offered on the floor. We urge you to vote for this amendment.

Voting for the Boehlert-Markey amendment is a vote for American consumers and American energy security.

- Using an estimated average gasoline price of only \$2.50 per gallon, the Union of Concerned Scientists estimates this measure will save consumers \$33 billion in 2015 and \$70 billion in 2020.

- It would also reduce oil imports by almost 1 million barrels per day in 2015 and 2.5 million in 2020.
- A reduction of 1 million barrels per day of consumption equals about 6 percent of the refining capacity in the U.S. and would more than double the “spare” refinery capacity in the U.S.

When this amendment was put to a vote in April of this year, it was defeated by only 39 votes. Two hundred and fifty-four members of the House voted against this increase in efficiency when the price of gasoline was \$2.25 per gallon. Last month, the average price of gasoline was about \$2.90. That increase in gasoline prices cost consumers over \$7 billion in the month of September. Business as usual is no longer acceptable.

Reducing our gasoline consumption is the single best way to reduce pressures on the refinery market. This amendment is an indispensable step in the right direction. We urge you to vote for the Boelhart-Markey amendment to increase automobile fuel economy standards.

Sincerely,

Mark Cooper
Director of Research
Consumer Federation of America
(301) 384-2204

Barbara Evans
Executive Director
Alabama Watch

Steve Cleary
Director
Alaska PIRG

Phyllis Rowe
President Emeritus
Arizona Consumers Council

Diane Brown
Executive Director
Arizona PIRG

Emily Rusch
Consumer Advocate
California PIRG

Bob Jenks
Executive Director
Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon

Rex Wilmouth
State Director
Colorado PIRG

Don Rounds
President
The Consumer Alliance (MD)

Ken McEldowney
Executive Director
Consumer Action

Walter Dartland
Executive Director
Consumer Federation of the Southeast

Paul Schrader
Executive Director
Consumers Assistance Council (MA)

Rosemary Shahan
President
Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety

Gene Kimmelman
Senior Director, Public Policy and Advocacy
Consumers Union

Niel Ritchie
Director
Consumers United (MN)

Bill Newton
Executive Director
Florida Consumer Action Network

Cheryl Hystad
Executive Director
Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition

Paul Schlaver
Chair
Massachusetts Consumers' Coalition

Dena Mottola
Executive Director
New Jersey PIRG

Brad Lamb
Executive Director/General Counsel
North Carolina Consumers Council, Inc.

Beth A. McConnell
Director
Pennsylvania PIRG

Megan Owens
Consumer Advocate
PIRGIM (MI)

Michael Shames
Executive Director
Utility Consumers' Action Network (CA)

Irene Leech
President
Virginia Citizens Consumer Council

George Barany
Executive Director
WECO Fund, Inc.

Jim Brown
President
Wisconsin Consumers League

Jennifer Giegerich
State Director
Wisconsin PIRG